

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Application in light of the Office Action dated July 28, 2006. Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 1-3, 9, 10, 15-18 and 21-23 are rejected. Claims 5-8, 11-14, 19 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant has amended claims 1, 8, 9, 14, 18 and 20. Applicant submits that no new matter was added by these amendments. For the reasons provided below, Applicant submits that the pending claims are allowable over the cited references. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 9, 10, 15-18 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,236,320 issued to Russ ("*Russ*"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,467,480 issued to Hogue ("*Hogue*"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and all findings, assertions, notices and holdings therein. Applicant also specifically traverses the Official Notice, as was done in the Amendment filed June 19, 2006 when applicant traversed the rejections and "the assertions and holdings therein". Amendment in Reply to Action of March 17, 2006, page 7.

Presently, Claim 1 is amended to include the elements of allowable Claim 5. Claim 8 is made independent and amended to include the elements of Claim 1 (prior to further amendment). Accordingly, Applicant submits Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 9 is amended to include the elements of allowable Claim 11. Claim 14 is made independent and amended to include the elements of Claim 9 (prior to further amendment). Accordingly, Applicant submits Claims 9, 10, and 12-17 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 18 is amended to include the elements of allowable Claim 19. Claim 20 is made independent and amended to include the elements of Claim 18 (prior to further amendment). Accordingly, Applicant submits Claims 18, 20-23 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

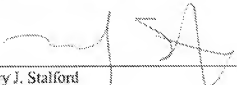
Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all Claims.

If the present application is not allowed and/or if one or more of the rejections is maintained, Applicants hereby request a telephone conference with the Examiner and further request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney to schedule the telephone conference.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the amount of \$600.00 for excess claim fees to deposit account 06-1050. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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